

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **10/519,674**
Amendment filed March 15, 2007
Reply to OA dated January 8, 2007

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 2, with the following rewritten paragraph:

With the second embodiment, the fluid inlet channel 22a and the fluid outlet channel 22b extend in a direction intersecting the direction of movement of the disk 53 which moves vertically, so that the outer periphery of the disk ~~[[53]]~~ 35 is very susceptible to abrasion. Accordingly, the disk is reinforced with a hardfacing material in conventional valves, whereas the alloy used for making the disk 35 in the present embodiment has high abrasion resistance, is therefore sufficiently durable without necessitating the hardfacing material and remains unimpaired in sealing effect even if used for a prolonged period of time. Because the alloy remains unimpaired in any of corrosion resistance, strength and hardness, the disk exhibits the above properties without entailing impairment of performance due to a change of material.